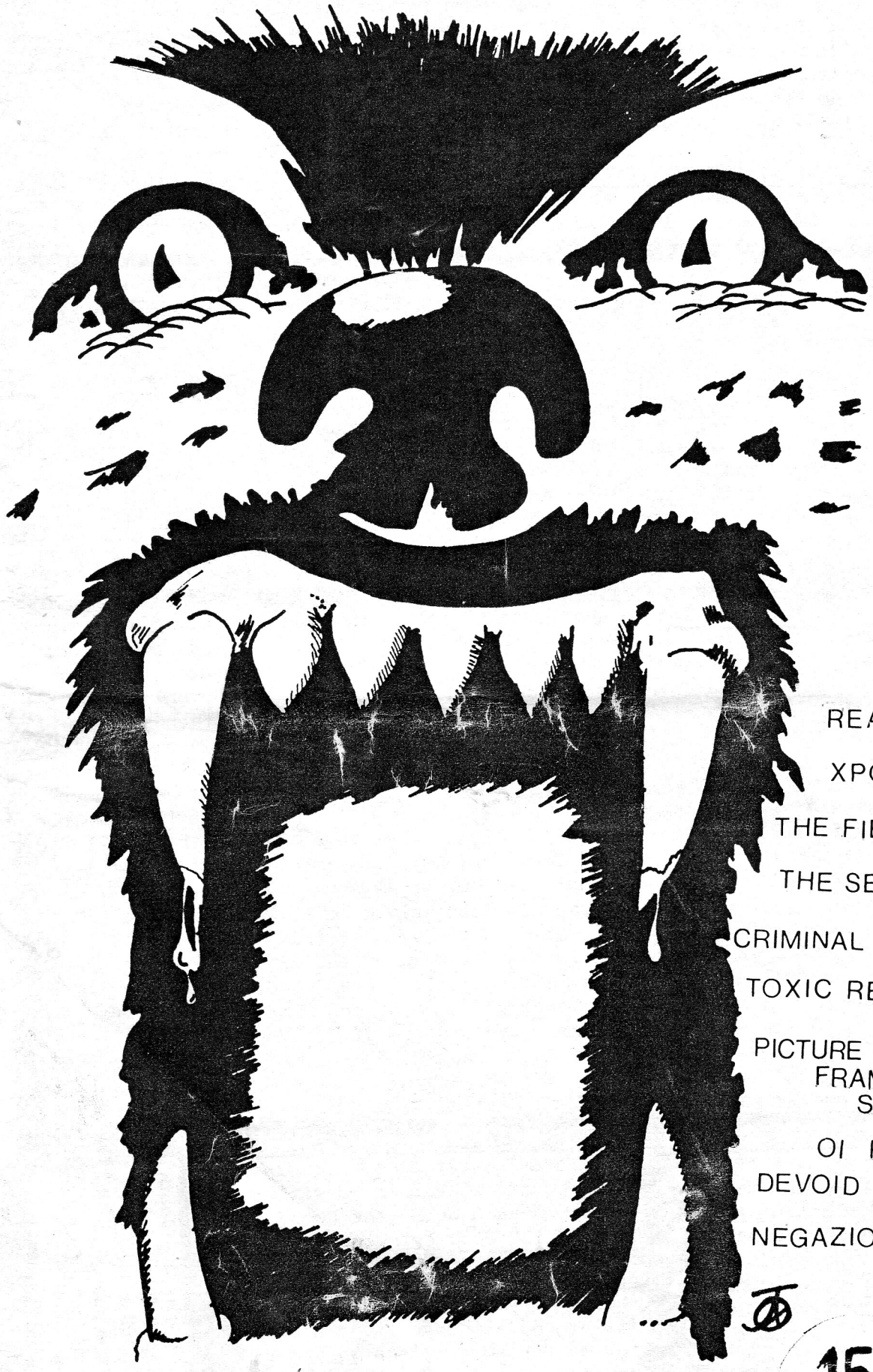
TO THE DEATH



REALITY

XPOZEZ

THE FIEND

THE SEARS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

TOXIC REASONS

PICTURE FRAME SEDUCTION

OI POLLOI

DEVOID

NEGAZIONE

+ more.

15p

ISSUE 4

O.N.O.

Welcome tae issue 4 of 'To The Death' & before i start i'm sorry about the delay in getting this issue out to you, but due to various reasons & laziness it took quite a while to get it together, but i hope the wait has been worthwhile. Well i've done 400 copies of this so if you think you could sell some for me then get in touch ok. Also after the gig with the Varukers, Rusty left 'External Menace' and is now doing drums for another local band, but 'External Menace' quickly fixed up X "Chaotic Youth" drummer John Hamilton and are now ready to start giging again. The band have 2 trax on the new comp! album being released by (Rot Recs) & the album should be out by the time you read this pile of KAK. Anyway if you have anything that i can use for the next issue, then send it in and i will do my best to include it ok. All letters etc to this address - Gaz/35 Clanrye Drive/Whifflet/Coatbridge/Lanarkshire/Scotland. Hiya tae janice,linda,karen,bill,ronzo,external menace,diane fae (incas recs) lesley,ricky,rusty stevie,andy,jim,potter,johnny, & gaz,paul,steve,diane, fae Manchester,trev,tess,china.

GOVERNMENT ISSUE - Boycott Stab. Yet another release over here from a U.S. band as the bands from the U.S. become more popular by the day. Following the release of other (Dischord Records) ie 'minor threat' & 'scream' this fairly old Government Issue album from '83 has seen the light of day over here and rightly so. This is very typical of the great Wash. D.C. hardcore sound which seems to stem from 'minor threat's' great sound with sharp fast distinctive guitar style, excellent drumming and short but often humerous lyrics which are good, socially aware lyrics and not the usual (anti this - fuck that) stuff. The music is nearly all fast and furious but one track that stands out from this format is "sheer terror" which is to say the least - weird! Lots of funny noises in parts which has great effects as the speed goes from fast to slow etc. My only complaints are the shortness of the album(probably less than 20 mins) and also no lyric sheet which comes with most U.S. records - and i would definately recommend this 11 tracker to anyone who likes their music fast but tuneful at the same time. Give it a try for yourself.

LOST GENERATION - Return from Incas. Well i dont really know where to start with this one, as it's a real 'mixed bag' & infact it almost sounded like a various artists comp. They have a garagey band type sound with the usual lack of production associated with such bands, & they seem to have varing influences from a spot of reggae on 'Heroes pt 2' and i almost thought i was listening to (bad brains) for a moment, then there's a very oi! - ish sounding track called 'Trouble' which is very basic & boring as with most oi stuff. The variation continues with an excellent track called 'All Alone' which varies in pace along with good guitar work, & then there's 'Win or Lose' which sounded like a (circle jerks) type of song. The pace keeps up with the powerfull 'Sheik o.p.e.' which sounds like there's been a change of vocalists - at least they cant be called for lack of variety, & then we have 'New York' which is a definate favourite of mine with a neat guitar intro. On side 2 we have another great song called 'Cartoon' which really romps along in pace with yet again excellent guitar work,.Next song 'Help Us' gets back to the fast stuff & then the medium paced 'Up all Night! Another excellent song is 'We payed to Laugh' which is as fast as fuck, & after 'Love so Tragic' the Lp comes to an end with 'Heroes pt 3' which is just pt 2 speeded up a bit. To show you how confusing this Lp was to review i completly forgot to mention the first track on the Lp which is 'Heroes'(yeah, yet another by that name) It has a great bumbling bass line with good nifty guitar work breaking in and out superbly which is a joy to one's ears, and is definately the best track on the Lp. Overall a weird Lp which is hard to describe, but definately worth investigating further if you have an inquisitive mind.

XPOZEZ - "FORCEFED THE TRUTH DRUG" C.O.R. looks like being one of the best labels around at the moment. The first track 'manipulator' is the best one, very good despite missing the same old chords in places whilst 'libido a go go' is also very good, especialy the lyrics which they'll get slagged for, but it is the truth and no one can say otherwise.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE - "HIERARCHY OF HELL" This is a lot better than i expected after hearing their demo, with the 2 trax on side A being the best, with "son of lucifer" being about the best

NEGAZIONE - "TUTTI PAZZI" Another free disc this time from Italy, and although it does nothin for me i'm sure it's a must for anyone who likes fast hardcore thrashy numbers even though the actual songs are all in Italian.

Reviews by Paul, Trev, & Stevie.

Issue 5 of (To The Death) should hopefully be out in August, & all back issue's are now sold out so dont send for any of them ok.

THIS IS A SPACE THAT I COULDN'T FUCKIN FILL WAE ANYTHING

Criminal Justice

When i wrote to "Criminal - Justice" asking for an interview i knot only received their reply, but also a free copy of their brilliant debut (e.p.) titled "Hierarchy of hell," so it's many thanx to Brooky for his lightening reply and also for the e.p. which i would advise you'se all to get, if you've got some sence.

Criminal Justice formed in August 1982, when Brooky & Nobby had just left another local outfit "The Infected," and in 1983 they recorded 2 demo tapes which have been on various compilation tapes + an album called "On the streets." The line - up of the band is still the same as it was in the begining which is Chaz - vocals, Kitty - bass, Nobby - guitar, and Brooky on drums.

Q, How do you find the time to drum for both "Criminal Justice" & "Xpozez," which band comes first to you and what would you do if both bands where playing on the same night in different places.

A, Well at the moment it is getting hard for me being in 2 bands as both are quite busy just now, as the Xpozez have just released 2 singles and Criminal Justice have also released 1 single. At the moment both bands are doing gigs to promote these records, and no band comes first to me as i just enjoy playing in both bands, sometime in the future i will probably have to leave one of them, because the work load may be just too much but i hope it never comes the day i have to leave one of the bands. If both bands have gigs on the same night in different places (it has'nt happened yet) i would play the gig which is furthest away from town, and the most important one.

Q, Where you'se happy with the trax on the compilation album, and would you rather listen to a compilation album than an ordinary album.

A, When i listen to them now i am not too pleased with them, the trax were taken from our second demo and the production on that was'nt that good. We were meant to have only 1 track on the album(middle east mayhem) but somebody at the pressing plant made a mistake and put another track on (machines & systems) cheers mate? It makes a change to hear a compilation album rather than an ordinary Lp, as it is good to hear a lot of different bands instead of just one. The "On the streets" thing was a good idea as it gave a lot of small bands a chance to be on vinyl, and to be heard.

Q, When will you'se be releasing your single and how did you'se get the deal with (Endangered Musik) and would you like to put a "pay no more than" price on it.

A, We have'nt got a record deal as such with Endangered Musik, i just wrote to them a few times and he offered to put up half the money towards a single. We met him and liked his ideas and so the single came about. It has just come out this week, and it has a 'pay no more than' price on it. It sells for £1.10. The price of singles is ridiculous nowadays and we did'nt want it selling for £1.50, or something like that.

Q, What do you think of animal experiments/vivesection, and do you think that in some cases these experiments can be justified.

A, We are strongly opposed to it if the experiment is to test some new important medicine then i suppose it can be justified, but the experiments which include torture, poisoning, death, and abuse on innocent animals cannot be justified, especially when they are testing some new make - ups, soaps, hairsprays etc, just to make some ugly bitch look beutiful, we feel the same about people who wear furs too.

Q, What do you think of nme/sounds etc compared to fanzines, and what do you like to see in fanzines and do you still do your fanzine - Aural Discharge.

A, I dont get the nme it's shit, but i do get sounds at least they give punk some coverage, not as much as they ought to do but at least it's something. I prefer to read fanzines though, as they are more honest. Continued next page.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CONTINUED. Fanzines also give the smaller bands more coverage, and i like to see good original interviews, record reviews etc. Our fanzine has been laid to rest at the moment because we have put all our money into the single, but we will be starting work on it soon so look out for it in a few months.

Q, What do you think is right/wrong with the punk movement of today, and what bands do you currently rate past and present.

A, The punk movement is ok, but i think the labels which people put on bands is dividing it up and causeing divisions. You get the crass types going to the so - called anarchist gigs, the hardcore fans going to disorder gigs, and the skins going to their oi gigs. If all these people happen to turn up at the same gig they end up stareing at each other and usually you get fighting. This is all shit they should be sticking together and fighting the system, not each other and hideing behind a label. That is my personal opinion and the other band members would probably be different. I listen to all sorts of bands of the present i rate the fits, d.r.i. subhumans, youth brigade, doa, the dark (rip) antisystem and many more. I still listen to my older stuff such as 999, clash, slaughter etc, but i dont know what the others are listening to just now because all of them have different taste's and it varies from time to time.

Q, What do you'se do when not playing gigs, doing practice's etc.

A, Nobby and Kitty are working, I write letters and stuff, Chaz stays in bed all day we often go out to the pub and have a few drinks, and go to gigs when their's some on.

Q, Have you'se encountered many problems since starting out, and what has been the highlight of your musical careers so far.

A, When we first started out we had problems finding a place to rehearse, and in the past 2 years the same problem has kept coming up. Luckily though we now have a permanent place to rehearse in Nobbys basement, and things are at last looking good for us. The highlight of our careers is definately been the single as we had been waiting to do one for a long time.

Q, What are your views on politics and religion, and do you'se cover any of these subjects in your songs.

A, We try to steer clear of politics although some people could say that some of our lyrics are political. We dont support any political party and we dont support the bm, nf or any of that shit. We are very much anti religion it's religion that cause's wars and violence in the middle east, n.ireland etc one or two of our songs are about this.

Q, As you'se progressed in time, would you'se try to put your music/views across to a wider audience to become a better established band.

A, I would like other people to hear it, as our music is there for anyone who wants to listen to it. We wont change our appearance just to get to a wider audience though, i would like some of our songs to get played on the radio, as that is a good way of the media hearing of what we have to say.

Q, I heard that you'se will be makeing an appearance on tv, when will this be seen.

A, We should be on tv soon on a programme on itv called 'Made in Huddersfield' and filming will start in April and we will be playing a few live songs. A lot of people will be able to know what we are about from the programme so it should be good.

Q, What do you think of drug and alchahol abuse, and have you'se ever had any problems with these.

A, I am totally against drugs (the hard ones anyway) alchahol is ok if it's in small doses, all the band drink quite often but as long as it does'nt get so bad that it fucks you up. We dont drink during practice's and we take it easy when we are playing.

Q, Where would you'se most like to play.

A, We would like to play in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales and go to Europe in the future, local gigs are non existant as some fuckheads ruined the last big gig by fighting, so because of that there wont be anymore.

'CRIMINAL JUSTICE' address BROOKY/103 WOODHEAD ROAD/HOLMBRIDGE/HUDDERSFIELD/ W. YORKS. You can also get the single from this address and it costs £1.40 (post paid). If you are sending for the record make cheques/postal orders payable to 'A. BROOK'.

PICTURE FRAME SEDUCTION

PFS

Q1, Tell us about Picture Frame Seduction.

A, We formed in 1979 but we did'nt get anything done until 1982 when we had a track called "getcha rox off" on the compilation album "demolition blues" Our best break came in Dec '83 when our bassist and guitarist left the band, and Mark joined us from illegal 15 and we then found steve wondering around a shop in South Wales and he joined the band-a sound move.

Q2, What material have you'se released since the track on the compilation album, and have you'se changed much since then musical wise.

AA, The track on the compilation album was done with our old line-up and since then we have done a 3 track 7" in June 1984 and in March of this year we will be releasing a 10 track 12" and 2 trax on the next compilation on (Rot Records).

Q3, How many gigs have you'se done, and what kind of reaction have you'se had at these gigs and have you'se ever had any trouble at them.

A, With the new line-up we have done about 60 in the past 11 months some of the crowds have been really great and others have been pretty bad, but at least we are playing gigs and not posing in poxy London venue's like Intensive Care. Yes we have had our fair share of trouble but it does'nt really bother us. It only pisses us off when it'S the decent punters who pay good money and come to see us that end up getting hurt. I make it quite clear that they are not welcome and if the trouble continues then serious action will have to be used, but trouble is not welcome at PFS gigs.

Q4, Is it true that when you'se played in Clasgow that only 8 people turned up, why do you think this was and would you ever play Glasgow again.

A, Well we have never been to Clasgow before, and the band that was billed that night was us but it was really Thomas Dolby who was playing that night. Yes we would love to play in Glasgow everyday of the year for the rest of our life's.

Q5, What is the punk scene like in Wales, and is it easy to get gigs and is their any other good bands or fanzines worth mentioning.

A, It is pretty bad down here and their is only about 4 venue's in South Wales and they are in Cardiff, and Swansea and they are the only ones who can offer decent gigs. The only bands worth mentioning are us and the Alarm, and their is a good fanzine from Port Talbot which is run by some lads who have a band aswell.

Q6, Do you listen to any of the foreign/American punk bands and how do you think they compare to the punk bands in the u.k.

A, We listen to a few of the foreign bands but lets be fair to the British bands because they have there heads screwed on but with the exception of the Ramones and Hanoi Rox i don't really listen to the rest.

Q7, What do the other members of the band listen to.

A, Well Mark like's Hanoi Rox Exploited, Gbh, and Steve is into Gbh, Cocteau Twins, and he does a lot of breakdancing in the nude out in his back garden. Keith likes to travel and wants to be succesfull.

Q8, What do you think of this government, and who would you like to see in power.

A, This government is shit and the Labour party would be a sort of step towards a better country.

PICTURE FRAME SEDUCTION

Q9, Are you'se still going to do the tour with the exploited and have you'se had any offers to play outside of Britain.

A, No it went a bit wrong when their agency wanted a band from Sweden to do it instead of us, but a few gigs in South England and Wales have been sorted out so we will be playing at them. No offers to play abroad as yet but our new agency might be getting us a few gigs in europe but steve's passport is out of date so it might be knocked on the head.

Q10, What are your plans for the future.

A, Our plans-well we have probably pissed you off quite a bit by now but we plan to make more decent punk records and to do more gigs plus more beer, lager, sulphate, then make loads of money out of our queer record producer and then retire with a sexual disease to a villa somewhere in Spain.

Q11, Do you think that punk has become to political, and what do you think of marches rally's/stop the cities etc.

A, Punk is a bit over the top with regards to politics, stop the cities do prove quite effective when done properly but we dont go in for that kind of thing. We just want to have a laugh and give the punters something more than c.n.d. and shit peace demos. Sabotage the classes.

Q12, What kind of gear do you'se use in the band, and how do you go about getting a song together-ie do all members of the band work on it.

A, Our gear is really quite good we have a 9 peace pearl drum kit, 150 watt h/h destroyer with a 400 watt cab, 2 channel 400 p.a. 100 watt bass head cab. Therefore we can turn up at gigs and not go scrounging like some bands who i wont mention. We usually work on our songs together after Mark has started with a riff. Our commitment to our songs is 100% all round, each one of us are professional musicians and by making better records than what is about at the moment so that we can put punk right back on the map as someone has to do it.

Q13, What has been you're worst experience in the band/any financial troubles.

A, Yes financially we have always been broke and i suppose it will be the same this year again. Our worst experience was when we played in front of 300 nazis in a well known Welsh city with a well known skinhead band. That gig has made us hate the bastards more than we can write down on paper.

Q14, Is their anything you would like to finish with.

A, Yes we will be realeasing a single with 6 trax on it in Canada and the USA soon on mystic records and we will be doing a tour very soon in the UK but it all takes time when you have to do it yourself. If anyone wants info on us then send a sae to our address and we will do our best to help. Contact PFS at this address IVY COTTAGE/RUDBAXTON/HAVERFORDWEST/DYFED/WALES..SA62 4BD.

9 YEARS ON 3. Interviews with the untamed, external menace, the deformed, anathema, & lot more for 20p to Graeme/26 Main Road/Trimdon Village/Co. Durham....MURDER BY FANZINE 7 Interviews with ausgang, membranes, red guitars, brilliant coroners etc from Peter/62 Queen Street/Invergordon/ Ross-shire/Scotland. Price 35p.

Some REALITY facts

Q, Can you give us some info on Reality.
A, Reality were formed in late 1981, but the 1st, line - up split in the summer of '82 after doing the 1st ep, titled "Blind to the truth" At the end of '83 with the new line - up, we recorded another single "Who killed the golden - goose", and it was released in July '84 and by the end of the year had sold 1,000 copies, and the present line - up is Veng/guitar & lead vocals, Peter/bass, and Gullet/drums & vocals.

WHO KILLED THE GOLDEN GOOSE?

Q, Are you'se happy with the vinyl that you'se have released so far, and what are you'se hopeing to do in the future in the way of releases.
A, Well the 1st ep, was fucking dreadfull but it was a d.i.y sort of thing, and was recorded 6 months after the band formed. "Golden goose" was much better, and we are getting the grasp of studios now. A cassette lp, on so'so records will be out this summer.

Q, Have you'se progressed much since the last time i seen you'se (Leeds '84) and does being a 3 piece have any restrictions.
A, People think we have progressed a lot in the past year, and we have becombe more powerfull, and tighter now, unfortunatly we have had a few problems getting a practice hall regulary up until now. We did have an extra guitarist last summer, but he took drugs and it fucked him up, but i think we get on better as a 3 piece band.

Q, Who writes the lyrics/music for your songs, what are these about, and which do you put most emphasis on lyrics or music.
A, Veng mainly does most of it, although Pete is writing some now even though he writes 'sentimental' love songs (aaargh) I think that most emphasis goes on our music, and we write about anything really 'war' 'love' 'troubles' etc.

Q, Do you'se have any particular beliefs views etc, within the band.
A, We would like to see peace and equality in the world, and our lyrics are generally of an anarchistic nature and question the current status quo.

Q, Whats your opinion of fanzines, any favourites & dont say Trees & Flowers.
A, We love them although some fall into the 'when did you form' & 'what do you think of Garry bushell' bracket, which is a pity.

Q, Whats the local punk scene like, is there any other bands/fanzines worthy of a mention, and what is your personal opinion of punk now.
A, Well there is'nt really a local punk scene, although there is a fair number of punks about. Most of the old crowd moved to London or Norwich, and who can blame them as Kings Lynn is a fucking dump. I think that punk is picking up again what with The Ramones & 999 back & kicking. In the past 3/4 months The Toy Dolls, Ramones,+ Damned, have all been in the charts.

Q, Do you'se find it hard to get gigs do you'se arrange these yourselfs, or have you'se a manager to organise them.
A, We used too find it hard, but now the offers are coming in like mad, but clubs in London exploit young bands & make them pay to play, so we only play the gigs that will pay well and where you are going to have fun with the audience. Tox our manager gets the gigs.

Q, Is there any quest or ambition that you would like to achieve from being in Reality, and whats your plans for the future.
A, To make a living from it idealy, and to be satisfied with our music. In the near future we would like to be able to sell a couple of thousand singles.

Q, Do you'se have any interests outwith the band.
A, Well Veng does some acting sometimes and is in a film 'Al Pacino' called Revelution as an extra. Otherwise i suppose we all get drunk.

Q, Is there any xtra info or news, that you would like to finish with.
A, Well we are writing new songs for a 10 track cassette lp, and when the 500 copies sell out, Rot records are going to re - issue it on vinyl. We also have some trax on the next comp album on Rot, which is out next month.

Contact Reality at this address
Veng/Hall Flats/Crimplesham/
Kings Lynn/Norfolk.

GOOSE?

TOXIC REASONS

To start with how about a brief history of the band, any line - up changes.

A, We started in '79, played all around Ohio and midwest - left on our first tour in '81 to Vancouver B. C, and the rest of western U.S.A. We have been touring extensively since then, and covered all of U,S.A, Canada, England, Germany, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, etc. We have had quite a few changes - like 10 different line - ups, as people would do a long tour, and then quit afterwards but this line - up has been going for 2½ years and it is by far the best.

Q, What did you think of last summers UK tour, how do the punks here compare to those in the US, in attitude and interest, and did any bands impress you that you'se played with.

A, Last tour of UK was fun, and we played with some real good bands too. Iconoclasts were fun, and the Angelic Upstarts are great, The Fits have a real good sound aswell and Derek (Test Tubes) is hot on the guitar. We just played with Mau Maus in Leeds and they are one of my favourites just now. Ginger John is a great ranter too (You must be fuckin joking!!) As far as differences in people go, it's hard to say as people react to their enviroment - different people, different places. I'm not a socialogist but it seems people in the US, are more desperate to have a good time, the lifestyle is much faster over there, than it is in the UK.

Q, As far as your records released, how come ghost town/war hero singles had all the tracks on independance lp (1st) and same with 'God bless America' single being on 'Remote Control' lp (2nd), is this just the record company cashing in on you'se, and are the early singles and albums delated now.

A, The 1st lp had the singles on it because they were all out of print and yes "Riskey-Records" wanted them too. As far as the second album goes the uk version was just standard re-release manipulation to try and generate interest overseas - (Not our idea.)

Q, Any reason for changing the slow part of 'Ghost town' from a reggae sound(similar to S.L.F) to a punk sound, and is it a post nuclear holocaust song(or have i misconstrued the lyrics.)

A, Ghost town is an old song for us "5 years", we just got bored with the reggae bit and jazzed it up a bit - it's a lot more fun for us to do it the new way. Sometime we might go back to doing it the old way or we might drop it from the set entirely. The lyrics are about Dayton,Ohio and all the buisenasses pulling out and leaving hundereds unemployed. It was done reggae as a shaft to the white middle class who were for the first time experiencing the unemployment life that has always been too familiar to the black people over there.

Q, Why did Ed Pittman leave, and is he still friends with the band.

A, We wish him all the best - when we moved to San Francisco we had many problems adjusting and Ed's temper got the best of him as usual. He is heavily into reggae and has a good heart, but he hates us though.

Q, What are your views on bands such as Gbh, Exploited, Anwl, etc, who to me are rock-stars making money out of dressing punk and write cliched lyrics which they dont really believe in. Is it true punks in USA, attend gigs in their thousands purely to see a British band play (Wheather good or bad.)

A, I like Gbh, i think a lot of people in England slag 'em but dont know them, they are just regular guys and i feel that they truely believe in what they do.They do good in the states cause a lot of people like there records ([redacted]) I have'nt seen or met anyone from the Exploited or Anwl, so i cant say for certain, so i'll just hold off. As far as 'thousands' at gigs go, thats just in New York,& L.A., the rest of the country only comes out in force to see Black Flag,DK's, & DOA. Most bands come through 2 agencys in New York, who use this rediculous contract wanting outrageous ryders ie, special wine whiskey, showers etc, so in the US British bands come off as rock stars, and the Exploited are hated in the states.

YAHOO 5. Interviews with slam,n.o.t.a,zyklome,stupids, + more fae Paul/46 W.CHAPELTON AVE BEARSDEN/GLASGOW/SCOTLAND. Price 15p....HARANGUE 2. Interviews with farce,xoset uk,abuse, kulturkampf, & more for 25p to Matthew/171 Causewayside/Edinburgh/Scotland...OBITUARY 8. Interviews with down syndrome,chumbawamba,iconoclast etc fae Mick/16 Cold Blow Cres/ Bexley/Kent. Price 20p.

Toxic Reasons

Q, Have you'se had any backlash from US nationalistic bands/punks, cos of your 'God bless America' single.(I ask this cause i read agnostic front were mentioning it in a recent MRR after a recent Toxic's New York gig) and did you'se get any shit in the UK, cos of you being from the USA, by the same sort of people.

A, Yes and yes - not so much here as in New York. It was'nt quite as bad as people's imaginations can conjour up though, the articles and letters in Mrr dont explain much and the ink in this pen wont allow me to do so here either. 'God bless America' was written 5 years ago with the crazed notion of having Larry Flint sing it (Aspin off the Biggs/Pistols thing) so if you look at the lyrics from that point of view it might shed some light. We are not sexist, nor do we necessarily agree with the format of his mag - but his political columns can be quite good.

Q, Is it true Flux refused to play any gigs with you'se because you were from America, and they reckoned you'se should stay in the U.S.A., and solve your own problems while they solve their own here(Not that Flux could solve a crossword, let alone society's problems.)

A, Yes,there's loa ds of great bands here, and if Flux dont wanna play with us, fine. Though their responce does'nt explain corpus christi's occasional flirting with other U,S bands does it. Crass would'nt have us either, but it's their choice and we can only hope that in the end we will all be able to work together.

Q, Nick Toczek had a tape of new Toxic stuff last year, does this mean we will see more vinyl releases soon, and what do you think of Nick as a promoter, person, and all his efforts to keep Leeds a thriving punk scene.

A, Nick is fucking great, we have just finished a new single that should be out here soon, and we also recorded some funk trax with Nick doing 2 of his rants to them, which was good fun in the studio. I also feel (as an outsider) that his work with the Leeds scene is tops. His wife is a great person too and very tolerant when we stay with them.

Q, Any views on MRR which seems to have less and less articles, and more and more scene reports which make boring reading to most. Any views on the many bands who are reported in MRR to be going heavy metal, and losing out with lyrical content.

A, MRR is one of the best underground mags in the world. Right now they want to put out certain issue's with no scene reports or band news and all articles. Ruth (Mrr contributor) seemed pretty positive about this, and it would seem that it's gonna happen. She said it would only come out a couple of times a year and the rest of the issue's would pretty much be the same format. As far as scene reports go those are in question now by the staff, as some of them are reportedly false, but then it's up to the readers to correct this. The bands that are turning heavy metal are kids who wanted to do, but have only now learned to play metal breaks, There's a big market for it, good luck to em.

Q, How long are you'se going to try and stay over here this time, and how did you'se manage to stay for so long the last time, as i cant imagine you'se making a lot of money. Does such dedication ever wilt during hard long schedules,such as these long tours.

A, We are only staying for 2 months this time, the last tour of the UK, and Europe cost us $8,000 ie £5,000 and left us almost broke, the gigs paid for the chips and gas some - times, and we footed for the rest of it (plane fare, van, equipment). It taught us a lot about tight management and the experience was well worth it, the friends we made and the things we learned about ourselfs and each other does'nt have a price tag. However after 10 months on the road it can get a bit tedious and wilt a little but after a month or so rest everyone is anxious to get back out and do it again. This summer around August-October will be the time to write, record, and practice and to visit our family's,and to sleep on a bed that does'nt move at 60 m.p.h.

Q, Anything you would like to say.

A, Sorry i was'nt more comprehensive but the van is shakeing and weaving down the motorway.I think you should know that i did'nt consult anyone else when answering, so what is written are my views. Thanx for showing an interest and good luck with the zine, and say hello to the north for us. Bruce Toxic Reasons.

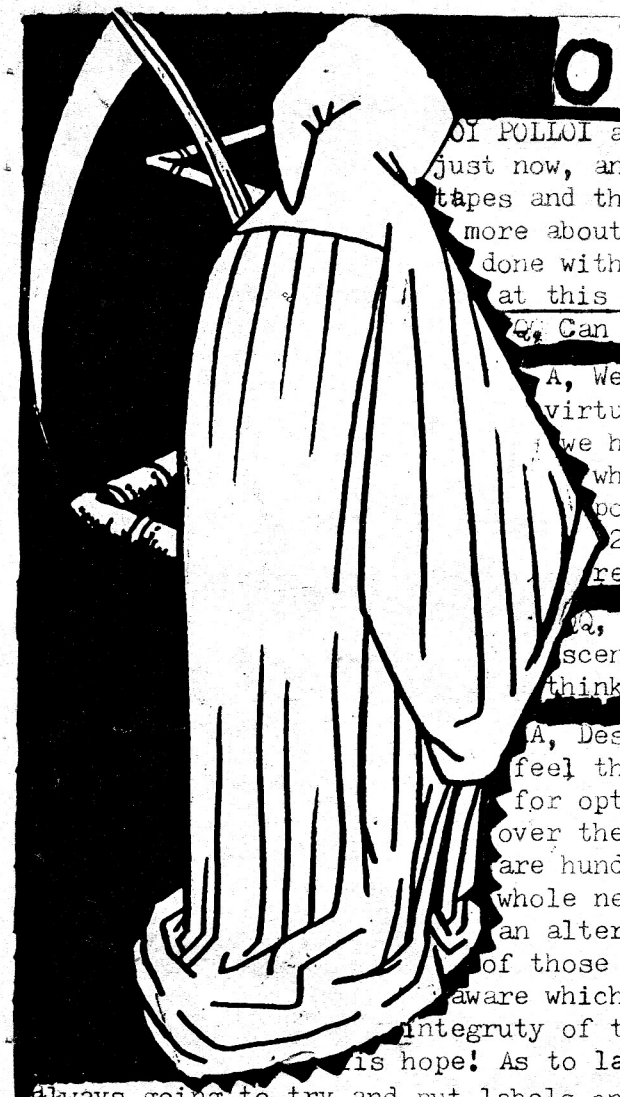
EXTERNAL MENACE/UPROAR/THE FIEND/POLITICAL ASYLUM/KERFEW...GATESHEAD STATION..12/1/85.

EXTERNAL MENACE

Well this was my first ever visit to the station and i was very impressed with the set up there from what i remember from it, i was well drunk so i need the tape of it to help with this review. The turnout seemed good - which is to be expected seeing as 3 of the u.k. best groups were on together, despite all the local anarchist punks boycotting the gig because of "Alter - natives" arguements with "Political Asylum" (when will you ever learn reality control) Anyway on with the review the first band on were Kerfew who i unfortunatly missed, but i was in on time to see Political Asylum and immediately they got a favourable responce from the crowd, as many took to the dancefloor (including me) they played a varied selection of fast and slow numbers from their 2 excellent demos and they received good appreciation which was well deserved. Next on was The Fiend who i had never heard of before, but they knocked out some standard fast hardcore punk numbers - nothing exceptional or original but quite listen- able with the odd bit of tune thrown in occassionally, putting them above most of the hardcore crap that is prominent in the u.k. nowadays. Suprisingly Uproar followed shortly, leaving External Menace to headline, and this was the third time i had seen Uproar and they seem to improve every time, especially with the inclusion of the newer stuff. They hold an excellent stage presance and this is really helped by an energetic crowd responce which singer (Stu) seems to feed off very well. They played a varied set of older and newer numbers including my personal favourite "Your empire" with Dave's guitar really highlighting it, inevitably an encore followed including a cover of (Slaughter's) "You ready now" which seems to be a crowd favourite everywhere you go "why do groups do the same cover version" there were plenty other classics in the '70's era beside Slaughter. Finally it was External Menace's turn to come on and sadly the crowd rapidly reduced to a mere 50 or so, probable reason being people having to catch last buses and trains. Anyhow Menace took to the stage with a drunk (Sneddy) looking completely different from the last time i saw him "Leeds-April '84" and also Sanz switching to guitar and (Sneddy's) brother taking over on bass duties. They immediately powered into an intro/instrumental that brought a quick reaction as 10/15 of us took to the dancefloor, and this was quickly followed by the excellent "Awayday". which contains some brilliant guitar work - really catchy. Next 3 tracks all come from the excellent new demo starting with "Wanna get stoned" (how appropiate Sneddy) which proves you don't have to be ultra fast to be powerful, then the superb "shoot - to kill" speeding the tempo, and by the end of the number an alarm was going off and Sneddy seemed to get in a bad mood because of it, as he said a few sentences that i could'nt understand in an aggresive voice. Anyhow they continued with "killin me - asylum" which reminds me of SLF attempts at punk/reggae- good catchy stuff. "To the - death" followed and then Sneddy announced the set was to be cut short as "Vietnam" would be the last track, i read somewhere that this track was their favourite and it's easy to see why as Sanz and Sneddy knock out some amazing guitar work. Unfortunately that was the end of a really enjoyable set showing the new stuff is equally as good as the older EP material - a fine band showing fine progress, more power to these lads because i can't think of any band in the country who can touch them. Thanx to External Menace/Uproar/Political Asylum, for a great night and thanx also to the Gateshead/Newcastle punks who we met and were great to us, and for putting us up for the night on a freezing cold snowy night a long way from home in Manchester. PAUL....

ROUGH CHARM/EXTERNAL MENACE....HEATHERY BAR....WISHAW....15th FEBRUARY....1985.

Tonights gig saw External Menace playing support (for a change) to a lesser known band from Strathaven Rough Charm. There was a good crowd in the heathery, the best i've seen for a gig for a long time there. External Menace (know a four piece since Sneddy's young brother Jim has joined) started of with a new 'intro' which is not like "Broken bones" instrumental. Things then began to speed up with "Awayday", "wanna get stoned" and the new look "escape from hell" which is a touch slower than its original version, next they slowed down to do the reggae number "killin me asylum". The rest of the set was brilliant with the band doing "To the death" "Shoot to kill" "On a mission", "Coalition blues" slowing down a bit for "Rude awakening"and ending with "Vietnam" and "Commando". They left the stage but the crowd wanted more so they came back on to do some of the old stuff "Someday" and "No views". About half an hour later after some alternative music "Rough Charm" came on, i cant remember any of their set except when they finished by doing a cover of "King rocker". All in all this was a good gig with a great turnout considering the freezing weather. STEVIE.....



Oi POLLOI

OI POLLOI are one of the better bands going around Edinburgh just now, and after hearing a couple of their trax on various tapes and the "on the streets" comp album, i decided to find out more about Oi Polloi, so what now follows is an interview done with their singer DEEK, and the band can be contacted at this address. Deek/5 Royal Cresent/Edinburgh/Scotland.

Q, Can you give us some background info on Oi Polloi.

A, We originaly formed in easter 1981 to improve a virtualy non - existent local punk scene, and since then we have been hampered by constant line - up changes which have prevented us from reaching our full potent potential, but we have still managed to do a few gigs 21 in all and liven things up locally aswell as releasing our first demo (studio) in January 1985.

Q, What is your personal opinion of the present punk scene, and all the different labels, and what do you think of the punk image ie leathers, studs, spikes etc.

A, Despite the lack of gig venue's radio airplay etc, I feel that in many ways the present punk scene gives cause for optimism. There are now thousands of punk bands all over the world from Brazil to Japan to East Germany, there are hundreds of tape labels to distribute the music and a whole network of fanzines which are now begining to provide an alternative to the established music press. The majority of those involved also now seem to be socialy/politicaly aware which is most encouraging as is the commitment and integruty of the many individuals involved in the scene, so there is hope! As to labels they dont really bother us, certain people are always going to try and put labels on bands/types of music etc, but anyone with intelligence wont let themselves be pigeon holed and restricted. Regarding the punk image of studs etc, we are not really bothered what people wear really as long as that is what they want themselves - be yourself. Punk is meant to be anti fashion, but just look at the way virtualy all "anarcho punks" walk around in black rags like clones. Oh yeah hopefully we will see less leather being worn as peoples docks and jackets wear out.

Q, Has any record company shown interest in the band since the track you'se had on the comp album, and is there any special company that you would like to sign to.

A, Yes, we have had interest from 'oppressed recs', 'oi recs', 'rot recs', 'mortarhate', 'punishment block' and reconciliation, so something is bound to happen. Idealy we would like to just have an understanding based on mutual trust with any non - rip off label which would save us having to sign contracts etc.

Q, How would you classify the music of Oi Polloi, and with so many bands around just now do you think you'se have anything different to offer from all these bands.

A, Well we would'nt classify our music, as that is up to the listeners. As to weather we have anything different to offer, i do think we have our own sound although admittedly our music is not original. We may be different to some bands in that we play several different styles of punk music - from crowd chorus type Oi, to 100m.p.h., thrash, which is something for everyone! Also our newer material covers new ground lyricaly and looks at things from a more positive prospective, so hopefully this will set us apart from the rest of the masses, but judge for yourself.

Q, What has been the highlight of your musical career so far, and is there anything that you would like to achieve from being in a band.

A, We aint reached the highlight of our career yet, achievement wise i think we would like to bring enjoyment to many people through our music, and we would also like to create some more awareness for those who hear us. Hopefully as a result of listening to us people will go out and fight to make the world a better place, and we would also like to make some good records, so that we would have something we created, and lastly we would like to meet many more people through our band to exchange and share ideas.

Q, Do you have any particular beliefs/views within the band, and do you try to put these views in your songs, and when writing a song which do you think is most important ie lyrics or music.

A, Our basic belief is respect for life, this in turn leads us to oppose militarism, animal abuse in all it's forms, oppression by police and governments and the ecological destuction our planet is suffering. We believe that we must stand up and fight back for ourselfs, for those like laboroty and factory farm animals who have no voice of their own and for our earth which is rapidly turning into a barren poisoned desent. That may sound a bit strong but the scale of the problem is vast - hundereds of acre of forest are cut down every minute, several species of plant and animal become extinct each month and nuclear waste and industial waste are constantley being pumped into our once clean and beautiful seas. The message in our songs is basicaly dont just moan about the problems,(get up of your backsides and do something positive about them) Regarding the relative importance of lyrics and music,we think that good lyrics are important, but they also need good music if they are to reach a wider audience and attract their attention successfully.

Q, What do you think of demo's/stop the cities etc, have you ever taken part in these marches, and would you like to see more direct action being used.

A, We support all forms of demonstrations,,while some are obviously more positive and effective than others. We believe in the importance of direct action like the hunt sabbing and alf's attacks on animal abuse to inflict economic damage on them, and to force them to cease their activit'ies. As far as the band is concerned we take part in all kinds of things from cnd and animal rights marches to stop the cities, which have been held localy as well as raising money for the alf support group. All in we support direct action totally and feel that the way to really change things is through a massive increase in the numbers of those participating in these activities.

Q, What do you think of the Edinburgh punk scene, is it easy to get gigs there, and is their any other bands or fanzines worthy of a mention.

A, Sadly the local scene (despite our best efforts) is quite dissapointing, the major problem is the almost total lack of venue's for punk bands but this is further activated by 2 more major factors, the first of these which is the attitude of the local punks who are not in bands. Going up town any saturday you can see loads of punks roaming around looking the part with mohicans and crass patches etc, but you never see them at gigs, i think most of them are just poseurs since gigs are usualy very badly attended and those who follow any one band never go along to see others. It's getting so bad some bands are wondering what the point of playing here is - to the same small audience. The second factor is the attitude of the bands themselves, there was an attempt last year by us and "self destruct" to set up a punk organiseing commitee localy to improve relations between the bands and promote increased co - operation and friendship. Unfortuneatly support for the idea was not forthcoming from the several local anarchist bands who are to high and mighty to play with non - political bands,they fail to see that if everyone helped each other we would all benefit. They often dont even go along to each others gigs,yet still seem to expect large crowds themselves. Bands who do deserve a mention though are "constant state" "self destruct" "degenerates" and "sad - society" The best local zine is (harangue) which costs 25p from Matthew/171 Causewayside Edinburgh. Issue 2 is just out and has loads of bands, reviews articles,etc.

Q, Anything you'd like to say.

A, We would just like to say thanx to everyone who helps us out and takes an interest in the band, especially those who come along to our gigs and encourage us, as that makes it all worthwhile, and to everyone fighting to make the world a better place- where there is a will - there is a way.

If you are writing to Oi Polloi then ask about Deeks fanzine, and their latest demo, which has 9 studio trax on it ok.

NEGAZIONE

Negazione are one of the latest new bands from Italy to release an ep, which has 5 trax on it, and it is available from the band for £1.50, which includes the postage charge. Below is an interview that i done with the bassist from Negazione, and the interview was a lot longer than what actualy appears in this zine, but i had to cut about half off it out due to some dodgy hand writing, which i could'nt understand.

Contact address.
Marco Mathieu,
Via Renier 25/4,
10141 Torino,
Italy.

Q, Can you give us some info on Negazione, and does the name have any particular meaning.

A, Negazione are a hardcore band from Torino in Italy, and have been in existance since Feb '83 and the present line-up is Marco bass - Fabrizio/drums - Sazzo/ vocals - Tax/guitar. The name Negazione means denial and it represents our positive attitude of refusal against everything. We use an act of rebelious because we wanna live and survive against the strong oppressions that are imposed on us, and our desire for fredom will never be destroyed by anyone.

Q, How well has the ep, sold and have you any plans to release more vinyl.

A, Our ep, is selling really well and so far it has sold 1,500 copy's, and it was only released 2 months ago, and hopefully it will sell even more as it is selling at a cheap price, and hopefully it will enable us to communicate with a lot more punks. We are going to Amsterdam to record a new single, as it is a lot cheaper over there, and it should be out in June, and all going well we will be doing an album at the end off the year.

Q, How does the punk scene in Italy compare to here in the uk, and what kind of reaction do the bands from the uk get when they play in Italy.

A, Well a lot of bands from the uk have played over here includeing disorder, antisect, amebix etc, and most of these gigs where really good. Uk punk scene seems to be full off poseurs and so many are on drugs but i would like to play in the uk, to see what the people are really like, and to find out more about the scene. I suppose the punk scene is great in Britain, but with so many bands their must be a lot of shit groups going about aswell.

Q, Whats the punk scene like in Italy, how well do the punk bands get on with each other, and do the punks & skins get along or do they dislike each other.

A, In Italy at the moment the punk scene is really active, not just by organiseing gigs and makeing records, but also by organiseing political actions too, as we are trying to propose something diff-erent to this system and also rejecting it's rules. We also have a very strong police presence who try to put us down, and the media do a lot against us aswell. Between the cities in Italy all the bands show co-operation with each other with self produced gigs, which has a lot of people working together. I dont really care about the differance's between the punx & skins, but in some places they stick together and in others the punx get a lot off hasle from skins because of their facist attitudes, but now they seem to get on with each other.

Q, How many gigs have you'se done so far, & have you'se played outside Italy yet.

A, We have done about 45 gigs so far mostly in Italy except from the gigs we done in Europe, and they are mostly done in squats and in Holland and it is really good, and the scene over there is looking good and the people are good to work with. Next month we are going to Holland again, and also too Belgium, and Germany, and if we can arrange something we would come over to Scotland and the UK.

Q, What things do you sing about, & how would you describe your music.

A, Our lyrics are all sung in Italian and they are wrote by all members off the band, and the lyrics are sort of political and the problems that face us and the oppressions that we suffer which is backed up by the music that we play, but our music is just hard-core but difficult to describe.

Q, Whats your opinion of fanzines, & is there a lot in Italy, & do you have any favourites.

A, Yeah, there is a lot of zines in Italy and i like all zines that feature new bands etc. We used to do one called disforia, but we stopped due to money problems. I like tvor, & ghdc.

Q, Do you have any interests apart from the band, and what would you like to achieve from the band.

A, We are all part of an anarchist collective which has been going for 3 years, and we organise lots of things like gigs in squats etc.

FORCEFED THE TRUTH DRUG EP

XPOZEZ

Q1, What was it like playing in europe and how does it compare to doing gigs in the UK, and have you'se any plans to go back to europe.

A, Europe was a great experience for us, compared to the UK and the people were usually less inhabited than they are in the UK more people like to have a good time and they did'nt stop to think of what people would think of them. There was a lot less poseurs than we get here, and we are at this moment trying to arrange more gigs in France, Yugoslavia, Spain, and Sweden, which we hope will come about very soon.

Q2, Whats the punk scene like in Huddersfield, and is their many bands/places to play.

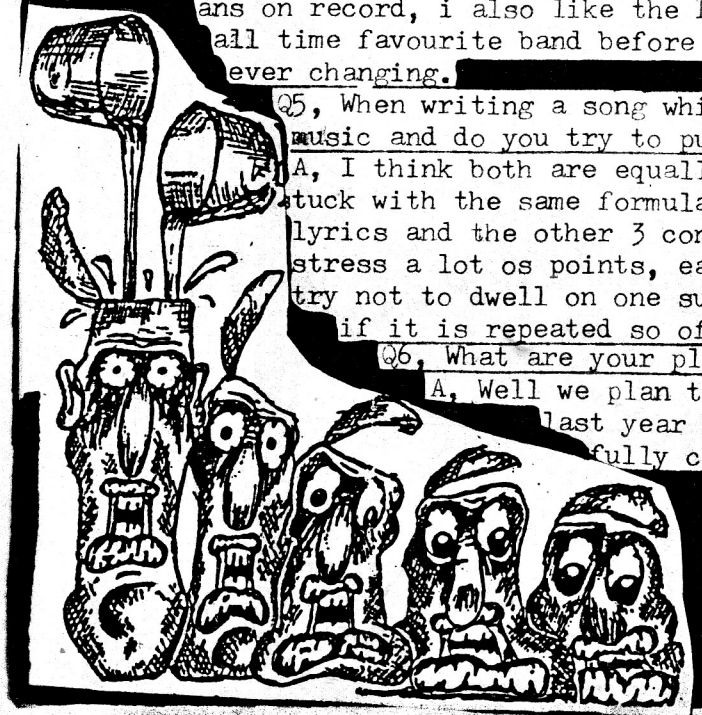
A, Band wise it's really good as we have got quite a lot of good bands here but no where to play which is a shame, as most of these bands will no doubt split up before they get a chance to play. Round this area we've got criminal justice, the infected, xoset uk, all over the carpet, eat organic, liquidated brains, the legion, deadpan-tractor, rubber whips, and from not to far away the instigators, leitmotiv, 1919, xs volume, civilised society, and no doubt many more. There is a great range of styles in their and hopefully they will all go on to better things but unless someone does something to help soon, then a lot of them wont be around this time next year.

Q3, Can you give us some info on Retaliation, what do you sell and do you make much money from it, or does it help to get more merchanise in.

A, Retaliation is a mail order service that we set up to sell records, tapes, zines, etc as cheaply as possible, and because we keep the price's down to a minimum we make very little profit, and what is made goes towards putting out more tapes, printing etc

Q4, What do you think of today's punk bands compared to the punk bands from 1977 etc, and what bands do you like just now.

A, The only real differance today is that back in 1977 or when ever punk being in vogue attracted good musicians who were more professional so the standard and quality of punk music then was a lot higher. Nowadays these people have found new trends to latch onto, leaveing mostly people who enjoy the type of music they are playing. When people mention 1977 as some sort of magical year they never bother to mention things like this, nowadays i listen to all sorts of bands/music some i will mention are the Instigators who besides being very good friends are also a really good band both live ans on record, i also like the Dead Kennedys. Minor Threat were probably my all time favourite band before they split up, the list is endless and for-ever changing.



Q5, When writing a song which do you think is most important lyrics or music and do you try to put any message across through your songs.

A, I think both are equally important which is probably why we have stuck with the same formula for writing songs which is i write the lyrics and the other 3 concentrate on the musical side. We try to stress a lot os points, each song has a different message because we try not to dwell on one subject for to long as it dilutes the meaning if it is repeated so often.

Q6, What are your plans for the future.

A, Well we plan to play more this year in the UK than we could last year and return to the continent as well as hope-fully covering a lot of new ground.

MORE XPOZEZ OVER THE PAGE.

THINK

THE XPOZEZ.

Q7, How well have your singles sold, were you pleased with them and have you any plans to do an album.

A, Record sales in the past have'nt been of paramount importence to us but this will obviously change with the release of the 2 e.p.s we have forthcoming (out by now) as one is on our own Retaliation label, and we have to sell enough copies quickly to pay back the money we borrowed to release it. I might as well plug these while i have the chance. The first one is called "lit up burntout" and has 5 trax and comes in a fold-out sleeve the other is released by children of the revolution it'S got 4 trax and comes with a lyric sheet, and both of these will only cost £1.00 each and if you cant find them they will be available from us. If things go well with these 2 records then we could be either doing an album or a 12" in the future.

Q8, What made you form a band and is their anything you would like to achieve from being in the band.

A, Having something important to say was a determiming factor behind forming a band along with the refusal to sink to living like 98% of people my own age in the UK, no prospects, no knowledge of how much they are being exploited. I did'nt wanna end up in a shit job that i was scared to get out of with nothing at the end of the tunnel.

Q9, Has not gaining the recognition that you'se deserve ever made you feel like packing the band in, or does it mean to much to you.

A, Frequently but it's still fun when we play live, because if it was'nt fun then i dont think that we would still be doing it. We enjoy both suprisin people who have never heard of us before, and meeting people it's a great oppertunity to travel.

Q10, What do you think punk stands for nowadays, a and how do you see punk going in a few years time.

A, I think that depends on weather you want me to specify my personal feelings or look at it as an outsider really. I think people should start believing in themselve and stop looking to "leaders" who survive as governments do by makin people believe they are dumb. They have always been dumb and they will always be dumb this obviously invokes peopl to feel this way, which is not necesserly what they feel inside, but they are made to be an outcast even in punk circles for thinking and doing things differently to the majority.

Q11, How many songs have you in your set any favourites.

A, We usually play between 10 and 20 songs per gig depending on where we are playing and who with. We usually do an average of around 15 songs, i dont have any specific favourites, but i have phazes of enjoying one song more than the rest but that changes all the time.

Q12, Do you think the Xpozez have reached there full potential, or do you think that you'se are capable of better things.

A, No, we are forever moving forward and we still have a lot to prove and a lot more to do before we go under, this band is moving and hopefully this year will see us getting a few of the lucky breaks that have eluded us for quite a while.

Q13, What do you think of the present government, and do you'se have any political beliefs/views within the band.

A, The present government is the same as the government before them and so on right back down the line, none of them really care about human lifes they talk in figures and things the majority of people dont understand, they are a business and are handled like one. All the band have different political views so it would be unfair to air just mine.

Q14, Anything you would like to finish with.

A, Yeah if you can help or want to be helped then feel free to write to us. The Xpozez can be contacted at the following address, and if you write to them ask for the latest Retaliation mail order list which contains loads of records, tapes, and fanzines cheaper than most other places. Tez/12 Bell street/Newsome/ Huddersfield/W. Yorkshire/ HD4 6NN.

THE SEARS

Well when i wrote to The Sears about 6 months ago, i was hopeing to have an interview with them in issue 3 of this fanzine, but i never heard nothing from them, until a few weeks ago. Most of the questions that i had originaly asked are a bit out of date now, but seeing as they did reply i have decided to include a part of the interview. Contact Dave/14 Blades hse/Tompstone road/Wigmore Farm/West Bromwich.

Q1, Whats the deal with Blurg, and how well has the mini - album sold.

A, The deal with Blurg was one of trust, Blurg put up the money for us to record it and any money made off the record goes back to the studio where we recorded it. We have'nt had any money from it yet, and we probably wont get any money anyway, as i don't really know if the way it's been selling has covered the recording time and pressing costs etc, and so far the record has sold something like 1800 copies, i think.

Q2, Do you try to put a message in your songs, and do you think anyone takes notice of what the band are saying, or do you think most people just listen to the lyrics.

A, We try to put a message in all of our songs, and usually we sing about things which we feel strongly about ie, war, people, apathy, money etc. I think that if we slowed down a bit the message would get through to people a lot better than thrashing out at everything. Don't get me wrong i love thrash, but if it is gonna drown out the words then there aint much point in doing it, we try to mix the faster songs with the slower songs usually people like the faster stuff better, but the slow songs always go down at gigs just as well. We also try not to preach to people as sometimes it gets really borin haveing a band that's trying to change people's views etc.

Q3, What do you think of violence at gigs, and have you'se ever encountered this problem.

A, Mindless violence is really bad, but if the violence is directed into something constructive then that is alright, but the violence that you get when you are walking down the street or something, then that is shit especially if you've done fuck all. We have had some violence at about 2 or 3 of our gigs, but it has never been directly at the band, and we get the odd sexist comment about our singer Corny but she can handle it. There was one time when i saw a girl get hit because she was trying to help a bloke who had just been beaten up. None of us have ever had to physicaly strike out at anyone.

Q4, What do you think of blood sports, and is any of the band vegetarians etc.

A, Three of the band are vegetarians but that does'nt mean the one who is'nt does'nt think about the cruelty, but i personally think it's a personal choice more than any - thing else. We all condemn blood sports and other things to that likeing, but if someone wants to eat meat or whatever well then that is up to them. I personally eat fish 'cause i think they have lived their life the way they have wanted to, and they have'nt been kept in a cage all of their life, but i suppose it is still a life that has been takeing.

Q5, What do you think of the present government, and who would you like to see in power.

A, We all think strongly about this government and how it has fucked up this country as for me i would like to see every town & village have it's own government that changed every 4 years, something like now but not one person over the whole country. Anarchy could work given the time but at the moment there is no chance of this with the state of peoples minds as they are now. I think the change has got to start with the kids, then maybe something good could come from all this fighting, but you would still get the ones who would want to rule over everyone, with their power and greed etc.

ANTI - SYSTEM/XPOZEZ/INSTIGATORS/SEATS OF PISS.....GATESHEAD STATION.....23/3/85.....

Adissapointing turnout here tonight as i thought Anti - System were just the kind of band to get the station full, but no, only 100 were here. The Seats Of Piss renowned for their hilarious/offensive interviews lived up to their image, Hendrix D.B. was (un?) dressed, obviously you weren't meant to take them seriously but quite a few did as he jumped off stage and ran around the dancefloor, and shoved the mike up his arse. The music while ripping off some tunes, was better than i expected whilst the lyrics were well ? 'of course i shagged your sister' and their most famed song 'we fuck dogs! A while later the Instigators came on having the task of singing into a mike that had spen spent half the night up Hendrix's arse. They did all their goodies, plus a few new ones but the best song tonight in my opinion was 'the church says' The Xpozez did'nt have the best of sounds, the guitar especially and this helped to make most of there songs sound more or less the same, and after their powerfull 'burnt out youth' on record, they were dissapointing live i thought. Anti - System came on far too late so i missed all of their set but they were good at the soundcheck, better than i expected. TREV...

The Fiend

While i was down at the Station in Gateshead in January i decided to ask the singer from The Fiend a few questions and here is what he had to say.

RoBoy — GuilA

Q1, How did the record deal come about, and when will the single be released.
A, The record deal came about after our acting manager wrote to (Endangered Music) and and they signed us up, and it will be released on March 28th "hopefully after a 5 month delay. Q2, Is it true that all proceeds from the record is going to animal aid and is this something that the members of the band feel strongly about
A, Well only 25% of the profits will be going to animal aid, and i can't speak for the rest off the band but i am all for animal rights. I am also against meat and i don't eat it myself, and i am also against vivisection etc.

Q3, What has been your best and worst gig to date, and what has been the overal reaction at these gigs.
A, Our best gig?Well both the gigs with Conflict at the Station were about the best for me as everything went great-we got really good receptions. We have'nt had any really terrible gigs,but the worst for a cold reception was when we supported Vice Squad in Leeds, it was a shit atmosphere. Another good gig was at Dingwalls in Newcastle with One Way System, and it was our first sort of big gig, so that will always be remembered

Q4, Did any particular band influence you'se to start, and who do you'se rate just now.
A, No band in particular influenced us, and i currently rate Conflict, Crucifix, Flux, Public Disturbance, Chumbawamba, Cocteau Twins etc.

Q5,You'se seem to be labeled a thrash band, would you agree with this and what do you think of the comparisons to the Exploited. A, I would'nt say that we are a thrash band, more of a heavy punk band, and as for the comparisons to the Exploited it's a heap of rubbish. We don't sound or look like them, as some people keep saying, it mainly started because at some gigs we use the Exploited song "Alternative" as a cover in our set, but all bands get compared to someone else - you can't win.

Q6, What is the local scene like...Band wise/place's to play etc.
A, The best and about the only place to play in Newcastle is in here "Station" and it's really good. Their is quite a few good bands down here like Public Disturbance, Warploys, Left for dead, Reality Control, and their is loads of punx.

Q7, What are your future plans, and is there anything you want to achieve from being in the band. A, We may be going to Yugoslavia to do a few gigs, and hopefully a mini tour of this country, and my only achievement is being in the band.

Q,8 What do you think of the miners strike, and can you see them ever beating this government. A, I am personaly all for the miners apart from the minority who use violence to get their music across eg(smashing peoples homes up). I would love to see them beat this government because if they dont then i cant see anyone doing it. Also the unions will never have as much power or ever be the same again, i cant say wheather they will beat thatcher and her cronies but they wont go away quietly, it's about time that this government was brought down.

Q9, Anything else you want to add.
I'm really pissed off with bands always being compared to others, a band cant have their own sound without them geting compared to anyone and everyone, just like if a band signs to some label like "crass" they automatically become known as a crass band. Also i am really pleased that the animal liberation front are doing more direct action and geting more publicity. The FIEND can be contacted at this address. FIEND/27 BLACKPOOL PARADE/LUKES LANE/HEBBURN/TYNE & WEAR. NE31 2AF.

devoid

Q, Can you give us some info on the band.

A, DEVOID first formed in August 1981, and since then we have done '28 gigs locally and around the country. The main reason for this rather small amount of gigs, is because we had alot of troubles with drummers in 1984, and we only did two dates during that year. Now i'm happy to say our original and best drummer is back with us on a permanent basis, during November 1983 we did a short 6 date tour with the Varukers which took us to Wolverhampton, Sheffield, Leicster, Herefard and the London 100 club twice, apart from the Varukers we have supported the u.k. subs, the partisans, the enemy, the oppressed and the dead wretched. Our only vinyl releases so far have been on the compilation albums 'demo-lition blues' and the 'on the street' the latter album was not released, as it was only sold by the bands themselves or given away as we done the line-up is Chris-vocals, G.P-bass, Craig-drums, Carol-guitar.

Q, Were you pleased with the trax that you had on the comp albums, and has any record company's shown interest in the band.

A, We were far from pleased with the trax on the compilation albums, in fact we weren't pleased with the whole demo tape from which they were taken. That was the agreement though, we could'nt afford to get a better one done at the time. We have written to a number of record company's mainly small ones which advertised in sounds most of them did not offer us anything more than compilations apart from 'chaos records' who booked us a date to record a single in London, but cancelled it at the last moment with no explanation. I noticed that they have'nt given any other group a contract either though. The only vinyls they have released is a single by first offence and the Sex pistols mini album.

Q, Some bands say they would'nt sign to a major company incase they got ripped-off etc. If given the chance would you sign to a major, and do you think indie labels are rip-off's, and do you think they are an important part of the punk movement.

A, We would if we had the chance, sign to a major label yes, it is the most sensible thing for any serious band to do, for the simple reason that it would enable you to make the band your living something that the indies can rarely offer. It would also mean that the distrubution of your records would be much better, and more money would be able to go into advertising etc. Something that the indies simply cannot afford. Indies do ripp bands off yes, that has certainly been the case with us, some records for example we paid £150 for those albums (suckers eh!), and it took a year and a half for us to get them, after much pressure from the bands and an article in the sounds 'panic button'. In general though, none of this is meant to knock the indie labels, punk would have been in a very bad state without them and they give small bands like us the chance to be on vinyl.

Q, What are your songs about what influences you to write them, and which do you think requires most emphasis, lyrics ok music.

A, Our songs are about a variety of subjects anti-war, nuclear weapons, cheap labour and basically things we have experienced or feel strongly about. We believe that lyrics and the music are equally as important it's no good having a great song with crap lyrics or vice/versa, although i do believe in many of our earlier songs our lyrics could have been better, but you learn from experience though.

HAVE A GOOD LAUGH 9. Interviews with onslaught, post mortem, new model army, disrupters, newtown neurotics, the fiend, + more. 25p to Trev/57 Briardene/Burnopfield/Newcastle - upon tyne... **TREES & FLOWERS 12.** Includes an interview with Uproar, + info on paranoia, iconoclasts, underdogs, + more. 30p to Tox/Hall Flats/Crimplesham/Kings Lynn/Norfolk.

DEVOID

Q, What has been your best and worst gig so far, do you find it hard to get gigs , and is there any special place or country that you would like to play.

A, I have'nt really got a best gig most of them have been good and i just enjoy playing anyway no matter what the venue is. I must say however that i really enjoyed the 100 club and the kids their were great, which was a great booster to our performance. Merthy Tydfil in S. Wales was also good. Our worst gig was when we played leicester, that was mainly due to violence in the audience. We do find it hard to get gigs, mainly because there is so few venues now that will except punk, and also because it is difficult to contact bigger bands to support them. There is no particular venue that i would like to play, we would however like to do some gigs in Europe.

Q, Does being in Devoid take up all your time, or do any of the band work or have any other interests apart from the band.

A, Being in Devoid definately does not take up all our time, which i think is unfortunate, we would like to make the band our living but it is'nt possible at the moment. All of the band now have jobs, which helps to pay for the group, but during 1983 three of us were on the dole which was great for getting time off to do gigs, but bad when it came to paying for vans to get there, the money we got on the Varukers tour was very poor, due to the gig situation with punk at the moment it is virtually impossible to make it your living unless you are on one of the larger indie labels and there are'nt many of those left now.

Q, What do you think of the current punk scene, what bands do you listen to, and what do you think of all the thrash bands from America/Europe etc.

A, Where i left off in question five brings me to Q6 really about the current punk scene. Basically i think it has fallen off considerably since 1982, with many bands splitting up, venues dissappearing and indie labels going bust-no future, riot city for example, due to less demand. I think it is harder now for punk bands to survive than ever before. Of the few current bands that are left i like the English dogs, and broken bones, i also really rated a who band called the blood who seemed to have just faded away over the last two years. Apart from those bands i still play loads of my old '77' records the damned, clash, vibrators, and early stranglers etc, aswell as plenty of moterhead. As for the European thrash bands i have'nt really heard enough of it to make any comment, and of the American thrash, 3 second numbers for example, i think its a good laugh, but not really my taste, but what does it matter any punk band is good purely for the sake of keeping the movement going.

Q, Are you happy with the way things are going for you just now, and what are your plans and hopes for the future.

A, We are all fairly happy with the way things are going for us, but feel we could be doing a little more work, we always seem to be too late for a chance. As i have already said the punk scene is making things more difficult for us now than a couple of years ago, but we are still trying. Our plans and hopes for the future are to get a recording contract, and just simply to get as far as we possibly can.

Q, Do you have any political beliefs or views within the band, what do you think of the present government? And who would you like to see in power.

A, Basically Devoid are anti-political, but politically aware. This means we dont strongly follow any particular party or movement, but learn about whats going on in the world and try to form our own views and beliefs without any narrow mindedness. We are obviously anti-war and against nuclear weapons for example but do not believe that the c.n.d. and unilateral disarnament is a sensible way of getting peace. There needs to be a freeze of arms on both sides, how to get the major powers to talk more construitinely on this subject, i must admit i just dont know. I think the present government is much to satisfied with its self and unwilling to believe they are wrong thats their main problem as far maggie thatcher (ya cow) i think she is pompous and uncaring, besides that i just dont like the look or sound of her, wrightly or wrongly. I personally would like to see the s.d.p./liberal alliance get in power next time round, not cos i particulary like or support them, but because they have never been in power before and might stop the swing of power from left to right all the time. There is no magic solution to the depression, and people who think that labour will suddenly make everything better are deluding themselves. As i have said this is a personal view and does not go for the rest of the band necessarily, hence the reason we do not sing about deep political subjects.

Contact the band at this address - Chris/234 Mount Pleasant/Southcrest/Redditch/Worcs.

NEWS?

'FLOATING IN A SEA OF BUCKFAST'

Report by Joe Carlin

A SOCIAL worker has made the shock claim that 85 per cent of ALL Buckfast Tonic Wine is sold in Lanarkshire.

Mr Jim Scullion said that when he took up his present post 14 months ago the Monklands community "seemed to be floating on a sea of Buckfast".

And he expressed his concern that drinking, as well as drug abuse, is becoming increasingly fashionable among the district's young people.

Mr Scullion, a specialist in addiction based at Coatbridge, said that social workers have not been receiving the kind of training necessary for them to be able to identify and deal with drink problems among their clients.

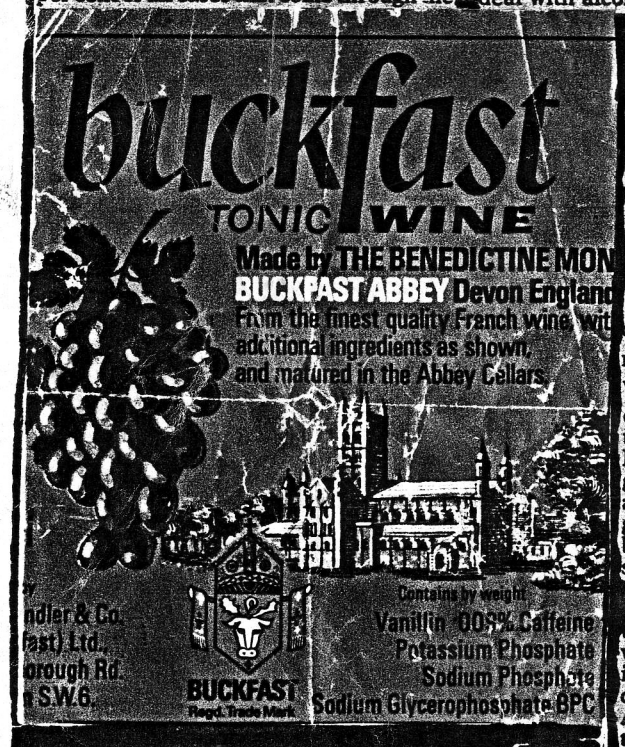
"This is despite the fact that about 75 per cent of all cases that come through the local social work department have alcohol lurking somewhere in the background and contributing to the problem," he said.

"Many children are received into care every year and a very high percentage of them have to be taken into care as a result of alcohol abuse.

"In the past social workers have tended not to concentrate on the drink problem. It was sometimes shoved to one side.

"It took a two-year social work course at Jordanhill College in Glasgow and I was appalled to find that throughout the entire course not five minutes was devoted to alcohol.

"The problem as I see it is that social workers are not properly trained, and very often they do not get the support they need from the authorities in order to deal with alcohol-related problems.



CONCERN

"However I would like to make it clear that, since taking up my present post, I have had first-class support from Monklands social work department."

Mr Scullion added that in the past 14 months his department has had 47 referrals of young people who have been abusing drugs. "There's no doubt this is an increasing problem and one of my greatest concerns is that alcohol and drugs seem to go hand in hand in Coatbridge and Airdrie," he said.

"When I first took on this job there was a point when the whole community seemed to be floating on a sea of Buckfast. According to the Benedictine monks who manufacture it, around 85 per cent of the world's Buckfast is sold in Lanarkshire".

VARUKERS/DISTURBED/ EXTERNAL MENACE...HEATHERY BAR WISHAW...29/3/85.

Well tonight seen External - Menace, back at the heathery and once again doing a support slot, which i think suited them so as they could make a escape before the others came on. When External Menace went on they went through a really powerfull and tunefull set and although not at there best it was easy to see that none of the other bands here tonight would be able to match them musical wise, and when they finished there set, the large crowd wanted more and this they got as they went through another 3 trax before going off. Next on where a local band from Glasgow who were well named - The - DISTURBED, who have a couple of ex - last rites, in there line - up and with their oi!-ish sound they were getting nowhere fast, and all i can remember from there set was when they done a couple of damned and blitz covers, and although done rather poorly they went down well with the crowd. The VARUKERS came on at about midnight, and they done a good tight set but it was easy to see that this band were more concerned with speed rather than sound, but they got a favourable crowd reaction. They done most of their vinyl offerings plus a few trax from their forthcoming album. All in it was another great night at the heathery, and i think everyone left happy enough having seen 3 bands, and although different in sound etc, they all put on a good show for all. JANICE.

BLOWN TO BITS 7. Interviews wae external menace, urban dogs, riot city, shithammer, the worms & more fae Spaz/33 Ronaldshay/ Widnes/Cheshire/Price 25p.

PUNK

RAISIN HELL 10. Interviews with pandemonium, 16 gung, upset noise, civilised - society & more for only 10p to Sik o War/6 Welburn avenue/Leeds/West Yorks.